

Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems  
Progress Report  
University of Southern Maine  
NOAA Grant Number: NA 05 NO54731127  
Nov 30, 2005

**1) AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE SEMIANNUAL PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE THAT ALLOWS ME TO UNDERSTAND KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Year One Objectives from Grant:

(a) Organize and convene an Advisory Committee of data users and producers;

Progress: The PI team is in the process of organizing a 35 member Advisor Committee. Each member has been asked to represent the regional interests of their given program area. For example, the directors of the four coastal zone management programs in the region were asked to nominate one of them to represent their interests on the Committee. A similar approach was taken for interest groups. The Committee includes both “super” users and data providers such as federal agencies and research scientists as well as regular users of the data. The first full meeting of the Advisory Committee is planned for February, 2006. This first meeting will be an introductory meeting, introducing IOOS to those who are new to ocean observing, outlining the project and soliciting input into the user needs. This group will be providing advice to the PI team throughout the process. In particular, the Advisory Group will help establish the principles for governance that will set the foundation for the future governance structure. See attached list of members.

(b) Achieve a heightened understanding of users’ needs;

Progress: The first step in understanding user needs was to synthesize what is already known about user needs from the formal and informal work of GoMOOS over the last 5 years and the work done by other entities. An initial draft of this report is attached. This synthesis points to three areas -- water quality, navigation, and fisheries – where more in-depth work is needed to describe specific products for users. A rapid prototyping method will be used to work with representatives of each sector to develop potential products. This is an iterative process where by users describe their decision making process, prototypes are develop based on that discussion, quickly reviewed and revised until a suitable product(s) is reached. This product will then be the basis for the gap analysis. Background work on each of the three topic areas is now being conducted to better inform the process with the users.

(c) Quantify the most important gaps in the system to be filled to meet these needs;

Progress: An inventory of existing observing assets in the region is now underway which will provide important background information for the gap analysis. The gap analysis will be initiated once the user needs discussed above are completed.

(d) Establish the principles by which the ocean data generators, modelers, and users will transform the collection of existing observing system into a network of systems (the “regional coastal ocean observing system” or RCOOS) envisioned for an IOOS;

Progress: Not yet started. Will be addressed in the summer meeting of the Advisory Committee.

(e) Through the nascent Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership, advance the integration of ocean observation data to the point of reliable implementation, and the Partnership itself to a level of institutional stability;

Progress: The ODP is moving along in its goal of making partner data sets discoverable, accessible, interoperable and authoritative. In the fall of 2005, the Partnership hosted a metadata training for members in support of making data discoverable and accessible; successfully completed a pilot project to make five data sets accessible and discoverable, with other partners contributing meta data since; has worked with the Global Change Master Directory and established a Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership portal. The Partnership is also developing a workplan that outlines a plan for taking the initial steps at making certain data sets interoperable through pilot projects. These pilot projects will take the initial step of integrating data sets necessary to fulfill the needs of users described above.

**2) ANY CURRENT OR ANTICIPATED CHANGES TO THE STATEMENT OF WORK IN THE PROPOSAL (DUE TO PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, IMPROVED APPROACH, ETC.).**

The project is moving along as expected and according to the process outlined in the grant. We do not anticipate major changes to the work plan with the exception of the time delay due to the timing of receiving the grant from NOAA. We will be moving the discussion of governance principles with the Advisory Committee to earlier in their meeting schedule than earlier envisioned.

**3) ANY CHANGES IN KEY SCIENTIFIC OR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, ESPECIALLY THAT EFFECTS THE SCOPE OF THE WORK AS PROPOSED.**

None.

**4) A COMMENTARY (ANALYSIS) ON ACTUAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN RELATION TO ANTICIPATED BUDGET EXPENDITURES.**

Budget expenditures are on track for where we are in the work plan. It should be noted that the funding did not arrive at the University of Southern Maine until September 2005; thus, the funds have been available (as of Nov. 30, 2005) for less than one quarter. Sub-contracts have been executed with the major contractor, the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, per a detailed workplan developed during the Summer and Fall of 2005. The work under that subcontract is on schedule.